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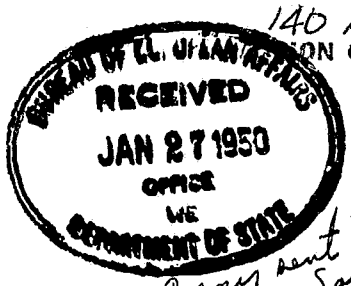

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Rec'd January 27, 1950
12:39 a.m.

Copy sent to Mr Sawyer per Mr McWilliams request Jan 31 Dept of Commerce

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FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 133, January 26, 7 p.m.

In course of Chamber debate yesterday on popular consultation, Scheyven (PSC Deputy) said he was convinced Americans and British had opposed King's return and specifically that former Ambassador Sawyer had told Van Acker that King should abdicate. As Department is aware, this question has been raised from time to time and may recur in more persistent form during discussions royal question.

Our files clearly show Sawyer did not intervene in King question. Pirenne in fact confirmed this to me yesterday.

Local UP correspondent who filed story yesterday reporting Scheyven's statement says he plans to suggest Washington UP bureau interview Sawyer on this matter. It may be that on this occasion statement by Sawyer of true facts might be useful, particularly since in popular mind here impression is growing that US has in some way taken part in royal question. This impression has unfortunately been enhanced by supererogation of King's secretary in yesterday handing me note at King's direction providing refutation of certain of Spaak's arguments re King's conduct as military commander in May 1940. Text of this note being forwarded by air pouch. It is innocuous but wide publicity has been given to fact that King directed copies of this document be handed to Ambassadors of UK, France, and US, thus by implication involving the three governments in royal question.

Of course,

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Of course, any statement by Sawyer should be delicately phrased and with sole objective in view of making it very clear that US Government has not and is not taking sides on question of Leopold's return. We should not wish any American statement that Sawyer did not advocate King's abdication to be construed that he is in favor of King's return. An opportunity exists, however, to make it abundantly clear that this is one political question in which US is not involved.

MURPHY

JK:EC